

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

S E C R E T DJIBOUTI 000132

SIPDIS

NOFORN

DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA, DS/IP/AF, AF/E, AF/EX  
ASMARA FOR RSO  
ADDIS ABABA FOR RSO AND COS  
NAIROBI FOR RSO AND COS  
CJTF-HOA FOR J2  
DEPT OF DEF FOR OSD/ISA/AFR

E.O. 12958: DECL: EXEMPT 1.6 X1 AND X6

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [DJ](#) [SO](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: UNCONFIRMED THREAT TO PORTS

Classified By: RSO MARC RAMOS FOR REASON 1.5 (C) AND (D)

[1](#)1. (SBU) On Thursday January 29, 2004, Post received an Unclassified E-MAIL from the Foreign Minister of the self

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proclaimed State of Somaliland, Edna Adan Ismail claiming an unconfirmed threat to the sea ports of Djibouti and Berbera. Ismail sent this report to Post's Executive OMS using her internet Yahoo.com account. Ismail states the following in her E-MAIL:

BEGIN QUOTE - There are some unconfirmed reports that there is a plot to attack the ports of Djibouti and Berbera. The attack is threatened from the North east Coast of Somalia. We are keeping our eyes open and would advise that just an extra vigilance be exercised at your end. Although we hope that this turns out to be a false alarm. It does not do any harm to be alert and trust that you will take the necessary measures. With best regards, Edna Adan Ismail. END QUOTE.

[1](#)2. (S/NF) RSO, CDA and COS discussed the content of the E-MAIL and felt it prudent to share the information with Host Nation sources to determine the validity of the threat. Taking into consideration the information from Ismail, the Host Nation immediately discounted the information sighting several political reasons why the threat is unlikely. RSO and COS concur with the Host Nation and believe that this is not a viable threat nor does it pose any risk to Americans, coalition partners or Western interests. That being said, the Host Nation advised that it would take the necessary precautions and closely monitor activity at the port.

[1](#)3. (S/NF) It must be noted that there has been a rivalry brewing between Puntland and Somaliland. Somaliland has had increasingly good relations with the Government of Djibouti (GODJ) while Puntland continues to criticize the GODJ for providing arms support to Somaliland. The GODJ has strongly denied such support. This reporting from Ismail could be evidence that Somaliland continues to nurture hope for closer Djibouti-US-Somaliland security cooperation.

The self proclaimed government of Somaliland has stated on several occasions that it wishes to gain favor and support from the USG as an active partner in the Global War on Terrorism. Although Post believes that this sort of reporting from Mrs. Ismail could be a sign of button pushing it could also be a sign of a closer dialogue evolving between the USG and Somaliland. Key Embassy and Military officers have met with Mrs. Ismail on several occasions and she is completely aware that the USG has a keen interest in the region. Post expects to receive more communications from Ismail in the future.

[1](#)4. (U) POC is RSO Marc Ramos at 253-35-39-95 or RamosMA@State.SGOV.GOV.  
SMITH